

Peabody Institute Library



123rd Annual Report

June 1974

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Esther L. Johnson, *Children's Librarian*
Richard S. Stromer, *Reference Librarian*
Dana J. Rizzotti, *Technical Services Librarian*
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Gloria L. Lawrence, *Library Assistant*
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Ellen Burrows, *Library Assistant*
Mary Cullen, *Library Assistant*
Lorraine Economou, *Library Assistant*
Helen Hegarty, *Library Assistant*
Cynthia Hubbard, *Library Assistant*
Caroline Spinale, *Page*
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WEST BRANCH

Beryl Strogney, *Branch Librarian*
Cheryl Brown, *Library Assistant*
Joan Cantor, *Library Assistant*
Lillian Tenney, *Library Assistant*
Sheryl Adler, *Page*
Joseph Connors, *Custodian*

This is the 123rd annual report of the Peabody Institute Library for the year ending June 30, 1974. Because of the change in the municipal fiscal year, this report will cover the period from July 1, 1973 to June 30, 1974.

Mr. Robert Johnson, a member of the Board of Trustees for over 33 years, passed away in January of 1974.

The most important concern of the last year was the condition of the Main Library building. In July, the Board hired the firm of Metcalf & Eddy, Engineers, to make a report on the structural condition of the building. This report pointed to serious problems. Mr. John Humphry, State Librarian for New York State was hired to advise us on the desirability of renovating the existing building. In April, the building condition again became a concern when the State Building Inspector demanded that some action be taken to rectify some of the safety problems or face having the library closed. Following a meeting with the Mayor, the Trustees hired the architectural firm of InterAct, Inc. of Acton, Mass. to conduct a feasibility and cost study of a new addition and renovation of the Main Library.

A new boiler is being installed in the Main Library to replace the old boiler which is 65 years old and has all but stopped running.

In July of 1973, the Board appointed Mr. Richard Stromer as reference librarian. Mr. Stromer has a Masters Degree from the State University of New York. In June of 1974 the Trustees appointed Mr. Dana Rizzotti, a graduate of Salem State College as Technical Services Librarian. This new position should help to alleviate the serious understaffing problem at the Main Library and it should free other staff members to perform the duties for which they were hired. The Library system continues to be seriously understaffed, with only one-half of the employees needed to run the system properly.

Mrs. Anne Negus, Branch Librarian at the South Branch Library retired in May of 1974. Mrs. Negus has been Librarian since the South Branch Library opened, and she should be congratulated for the fine job she has done in serving the people of South Peabody.

1974 also saw the Library engaged in a budget battle with the city government. The appropriations from the city continue to be totally inadequate for a city of 50,000 people. Salem, Beverly and Danvers continue to appropriate more than twice as much money on a per capita basis as Peabody does despite the fact that Peabody is the largest by far of the four communities. The result of the budget cuts was a 20% reduction in the number of books bought in 1974 and there will probably be an even greater reduction

in 1975. With a collection that is already only one-third of what it should be, this is a very disturbing trend.

Our most positive accomplishments in the last year were in terms of programs and services. A Great Books discussion group was started in the West Branch Library under the leadership of Mr. Stromer. The program has proved tremendously successful with far more people wishing to join the group than can be accommodated. The Library also received its first Federal grant in the amount of \$3,769 for the purchase of a truck to deliver books to the nursing homes and senior citizen projects in the city. This project is being run by Mr. Rizzotti with deliveries of book deposits being made on a monthly basis. The childrens' story hours in each of the three buildings are also tremendously successful. These are being lead by Mrs. Gloria Lawrence at the Main Library, Miss Mary Cullen at the South Branch and a volunteer, Mrs. Rachel Bochniak at the West Branch. In addition, the West Branch Library is offering art story hours lead by Elaine Tsioropoulos and Ann Birkner, also volunteers. Mrs. Barbara Kremer, another volunteer, has lead an arts and crafts hour. Many more children have signed up for these programs than can be accommodated due to lack of space. It is hoped that the next year will see the opening of the long promised childrens room in the basement of the West Branch which should help to reduce the overcrowding there. Hopefully also, the city will soon return to the library the rear of the South Branch Library to help alleviate the overcrowding there.

In the Spring of 1974, the Library helped to launch the Peabody Regional Education Program by allowing the School Dept. to use the Sutton Room in the Main Library and the South Branch Library for instructional sessions while the School Dept. is acquiring its own building for the program.

The success of these programs proves that the people of Peabody are eager for quality Library service and it shows also that with adequate financial support, the Library is ready to meet these needs.

The Lyceum and Library Committee under the leadership of the Rev. Robert Barber has become very active during the last year. They donated a movie projector to the Library from the proceeds of the annual book sale, held at the end of June last year. An advisory committee was established to help the Library in planning programs for the non-English speaking community. I look forward to the active support of the Lyceum and Library Committee and the Friends of the West Branch Library and I thank them for their support in the last year.

My thanks also to the Board of Trustees for their support

during what can only be called a very difficult year. Despite a lot of adverse but necessary publicity, I think we have made a beginning in solving some of our most serious problems.

I particularly want to thank the many dedicated, talented and hard-working members of the staff. The people of Peabody owe them thanks for their service in the last year, often at their own expense or on their own time. If it had not been for their extra efforts, we could not have overcome many of the serious handicaps we face in trying to provide the kind of library service that the people of Peabody deserve.

1973-74 has been a year of beginnings in solving our problems and I hope we can keep the momentum going.

Thomas F. Scully,
Director

STATISTICS JULY 1, 1973-JUNE 30, 1974

CIRCULATION	MAIN BRANCH	SOUTH BRANCH	WEST BRANCH	TOTAL
Books	63,526	27,491	50,338	141,355
Periodicals	2,218	331	398	2,947
Pamphlets	122	---	---	122
Records	3,039	---	---	3,039
Films	346	---	---	346
Museum Tickets	206	---	---	206
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>69,457</u>	<u>27,822</u>	<u>50,736</u>	<u>148,015</u>

ACQUISITIONS				
Books	3,075	812	817	4,704
Records	41	---	---	41
Pamphlets	0	---	---	0
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>3,116</u>	<u>812</u>	<u>817</u>	<u>4,745</u>

WITHDRAWALS				
Books	8,535	193	477	9,205
Records	35	---	---	35
Pamphlets	4	---	---	4
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>8,574</u>	<u>193</u>	<u>477</u>	<u>9,244</u>

HOLDINGS JUNE 30, 1974				
Books	44,219	9,240	13,289	66,748
Records	1,076	---	---	1,076
Pamphlets	212	---	---	212
Microfilm Reels	363	---	---	363
Microfiche Cards	22	---	---	22

REGISTERED BORROWERS				
	16,764	3,022	5,818	25,604

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